

Amount for Stadia

805. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released by the Union Government to Karnataka for the construction of various stadia in connection with the recently concluded National Games;

(b) the amount released for each stadium in Bangalore and Mysore;

(c) whether any defects have been noticed in the indoor and other stadia;

(d) if so, whether the Government have ordered any enquiry into the quality of construction and the safety of these stadia; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) and (b) A bulk grant of Rs. 8.00 crores was released by the Government of India to the State Government of Karnataka for construction of various stadia in connection with the recently concluded National Games at Bangalore and Mysore. In addition, a grant of Rs. 1.50 crore was also released for the installation of Synthetic Athletic Track, Synthetic Hockey Surface and Indoor Sports Floors at Bangalore and Mysore.

(c) According to information furnished by the Govt. of Karnataka, the major stadia have not yet been fully completed and during the conduct of the Games, one or two instances of leakage in the indoor stadia had occurred since the roofs had not been completed fully with water-proof material. These were attended to by the State Government immediately;

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

LPG Agencies

806. SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies operating in Darbhanga in Bihar.

(b) whether the complaints are generally received against almost all the LPG agencies but due to collusion

between the agencies and the Regional Officer, no action is taken against them; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Three LPG distributorships are in operation in Darbhanga in Bihar.

(b) It has been reported that no complaint against these LPG distributorships has been received by the concerned oil company during the last one year.

(c) Complaints are investigated by the concerned oil company as and when they are received. In established cases, suitable penal action as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines are taken against the distributorships concerned.

[Translation]

Maintenance of Buddhist Monuments, Pilgrim Centres

807. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government for maintenance of the places of Buddhist pilgrimage and monuments in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) the number of employees and their designations appointed for each; and

(c) the time by which proper arrangements would be made for providing basic amenities to the pilgrims and information about these places?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) In the monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India, structural repairs, chemical preservation and environmental development are carried out as per archaeological norms and availability of funds in respect of these monuments.

(b) The monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are looked after by Circles headed by Superintending Archaeologist and includes Engineers, Chemists, Horticulturists and watch and ward staff at monuments sites.

(c) Providing and maintaining basic amenities to pilgrims and information about these places are primarily the responsibility of Tourism Ministry/State Tourism Deptt. However, depending upon the extent of land attached

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with monuments and consistent with archaeological principles, facilities like drinking water and toilets are provided at selected monuments.

[English]

Curtailment of Air India Flights

808. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India have curtailed its flights to Europe and other destinations this year in order to spare aircraft for Haj pilgrims;

(b) if so, the number of flights curtailed and diverted from their scheduled separately;

(c) whether tour operators from Europe had protested against the schedule modifications made by Air India;

(d) if so, whether Air India staff in Paris has cautioned that due to curtailment of flight frequencies via Paris the image of India has been tarnished; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to ensure the minimum curtailment of flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the period from March to May, 1997, 35 flights to Toronto and 36 flights to Europe were curtailed. Besides, 22 flights were downgraded from B747-200 to A310 on Hong Kong/Osaka route.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. However, Air India gave all possible help to the groups already booked by re-routing/booking passengers on subsequent flights/transferring them to other carriers.

(e) Government has issued instructions to Air India to ensure that no cancellation of scheduled flights or withdrawal of capacity from routes/sectors is resorted to unless there are compelling operational/technical reasons for doing so. Even in such circumstances, the airline should keep the general public informed well in advance.

Shipment of Minerals from Kandla Port

809. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that Bentonite Salt, Bauxite and other basic minerals are being produced in Kutch region of Gujarat;

(b) whether these minerals are being exported to foreign countries for the last 25 years for earning foreign exchange;

(c) whether the exporters find it difficult for shipment from the Kandla Port and have to incur heavy loss because of the handling and weather conditions etc;

(d) whether there has been a consistent demand to the Kandla Port Authority for providing a berth exclusively for use of shipment of these minerals from that port; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Although the traders have demanded to provide one berth exclusively for the Shipment of these minerals, keeping in view the available infrastructure facilities, it is not possible to provide one berth exclusively for export of these minerals as the demand from other export commodities is of a much larger extent.

Minority Status to Central Universities

810. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Government's policy on grant of 'Minority' status to Central Universities;

(b) whether there is any Central universities in the country which have been granted 'minority' status and if so, the names of such universities;

(c) whether there has been an agitation at the Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi and if so, the demand of the agitationists;

(d) whether the demands have also been supported by the National Commission on Minorities and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have examined their demand and if so, the Government's stand thereon; and